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MSC.1/Circ.1601/Rev.2
30 June 2025

REVISED INDUSTRY COUNTER PIRACY GUIDANCE

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its eighty-ninth session (11 to 20 May 2011) having, inter alia, recognized the importance of the Best Management Practices (BMP) and the need to comply with the provisions therein, adopted resolution MSC.324(89) on *Implementation of Best Management Practice Guidance*, and expressed its general understanding of the need to keep the BMP alive, relevant, dynamic and updated.

2 The Committee noted that the industry group was working on a revision to the Best Management Practices to Deter piracy off the coast of Somalia and in the Arabian Sea Area. The Committee, therefore, authorized the Chair and the Secretariat to distribute the revised Best Management Practices guidance without waiting for the Committee's prior approval and subsequently endorsed MSC.1/Circ.1339 retrospectively at its ninetieth session (16 to 25 May 2012).

3 At its 100th session (3 to 7 December 2018), the Committee noted that the shipping industry had comprehensively reviewed and updated its guidance on piracy and armed robbery, resulting in the development of Global Counter Piracy Guidance for companies, masters and seafarers (Global BMP); the revised Best Management Practices to Deter piracy and enhance maritime security in the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea (BMP5); the guidelines for protection against piracy and armed robbery in the Gulf of Guinea region (Version 3); and the launch of a dedicated security website: www.maritimeglobalsecurity.org

4 The Committee further noted that the new and revised guidance took into account developments in piracy and maritime security since the publication of BMP4, including the development of further regional guidance, changes in pirate modus operandi and the establishment of new regional reporting mechanisms. The guidance was made publicly available and was intended to assist companies and seafarers to further mitigate maritime security threats, and help increase the security of world trade. Consequently, the Committee approved the *Revised industry counter piracy guidance*, circulated by means of MSC.1/Circ.1601.

5 The Committee, at its 103rd session (5 to 14 May 2021), approved replacing annex 3 of MSC.1/Circ.1601 with the revised BMP West Africa guidance, issued by industry in March 2020 and subsequently circulated as MSC.1/Circ.1601/Rev.1.

6 The Committee, at its 110th session (18 to 27 June 2025), was informed that a new consolidated version of the Best Management Practices Maritime Security (BMP MS) had been issued in April 2025, replacing the previous Global BMP, BMP5, and BMP West Africa.

7 The Committee agreed to request the Secretariat to revise MSC.1/Circ.1601 to reflect the new consolidated BMP.

8 Member Governments are invited to take note of the new consolidated BMP MS, as set out in the annex; and advise owners, operators and managers of ships entitled to fly their flag, as well as the shipboard personnel employed or engaged on such ships, to act accordingly.

9 The Guidance provided in the annex is intended to support existing IMO guidance, namely the *Recommendations to Governments for preventing and suppressing piracy and armed robbery against ships* (MSC.1/Circ. 1333/Rev.1), the *Guidance to shipowners and ship operators, shipmasters and crews on preventing and suppressing acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships* (MSC.1/Circ.1334) and resolution MSC.324(89) on *Implementation of Best Management Practice Guidance*, and is complementary to regional initiatives which provide more detailed guidance specific to the threat in a particular region.

10 International organizations are also invited to take note of the Guidance (BMP MS) and to advise their membership to act accordingly.

11 Member Governments and international organizations are invited to consider bringing the results of the experience gained with the application of this guidance to the attention of the Committee.
